

Inventory of Materials

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Proclamation, Va.

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Rella F. Yeager

*From notes and -1-  
newspaper article by  
C.C.C.'s of Camp Price*

CAMP PRICE

*Droop Mountain <sup>and</sup> Battle field Park*

Camp Price is four miles south of Hillsboro, and fifteen miles south of Marlinton, West Virginia.

The Advance Army detail arrived at the Camp Site on July twenty ninth, 1935. On August nineteenth, 209 CCC enrollees arrived along with the personnel of the State Forest Service.

For the next ten days the enrollees were busy getting acquainted, being inoculated against disease of different kinds, and being introduced to the work and routine of Camp life. After ten days the Camp took on the aspect of a very busy place under the watchful eyes of the Company Commander and the Camp Superintendent the different buildings necessary for a Camp were soon taking form. Today, there are eleven buildings which are used by the Army division of the CCC and nine buildings which are necessary for the forestry work. The Army buildings erected by local skilled labor, but the enrollees have more pride in the Forestry Buildings because a large percentage of the work was done by them.

Excessive rains during the early history of Camp Price, soon made it apparent that a good road must be built into camp. Today, Camp Price is one of the few camps in the state which has a road that has been in perfect condition thru the winter snows and spring thaw. This road has a sound rock base with a top coat of shale and is wide enough for all purposes. Another modern convenience in Camp Price is commercial electricity. To secure this important item one mile of high tension power line has been built.

It is the wish and purpose of the Conservation Commission to make the Droop Mountain Battlefield a historical shrine and public



recreation center. One crew of men has been working toward that end since last September. During that time over four hundred cords of wood have been cut in ridding the park of dead chestnut trees, logs and slashings from a former saw mill operation. The entire wooded part of the park area, consisting of one hundred and sixty acres has been carefully thinned and all deformed, dead and diseased trees have been removed. Over ten thousand tree seedlings have been secured and planted. There is still a large area to be planted. Before all planting of trees is complete, the Conservation Commission intends to have a group of each variety of trees found in West Virginia on the Droop Mountain Park.

To make the beauty of the woodland and historical points of interest accessible to the public, two and one half miles of road has been built. The new road system is so coordinated with route 219 that the public can now drive around the entire park area. Massive log entrance portals have been erected at the two points where the park roads intersect the highway. For those who enjoy a walk thru the woods over two miles of foot trail has been constructed. Along these trails can be seen the carefully preserved graves of unknown soldiers.

To lessen the danger of fire, over four miles of fire break has been built around the park.

Not all of the work of Camp Price is confined to the development of the park. Briery Knob, the fourth highest point in West Virginia, and a forest area of over two hundred square miles surrounding it, has no roads or other facilities to aid in fire suppression and other forest and stream improvements. Throughout the entire winter, work has gone steadily forward on the building of a



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truck trail to Briery Knob which will eventually connect with a trail being built from Richwood. Four miles of this road has been completed. If the public wishes to view some of the most beautiful scenery in West Virginia, they should drive over this trail during the summer months.

Trying to reach a fire by walking over an unbroken country is hard work and often takes a long time which delays an attack. To help under such conditions a combination horse trail and fire break is being constructed from Briery Knob to the Trout Valley road. Over nine miles of this work has been completed.

No fire suppression program is complete without the advantage of telephone lines. During the winter over three hundred and fifty telephone poles have been cut and prepared for the construction of nineteen miles of telephone line.

We have all seen the destruction of the chestnut trees by blight. Many other trees of our forest are riddled with diseases of different kinds. Twenty thousand acres have been carefully gone over and all diseases eradicated as closely as possible.

Droop Mountain and the surrounding forest was covered with from six inches to four feet of snow for many weeks during the winter of 1935-36. During that time over six hundred pounds of food was distributed to the game birds and other wild life. Regular trips were made to the feeding points and shelters, and the men in charge have been welcomed visitors to hundreds of quail, grouse, and wild turkeys.

The spring flood waters were not high enough to reach Camp Price. However, the Camp did its bit by sending a crew of men and four trucks to Wheeling to aid in the rehabilitation of the flooded district.